ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF WORK SESSION
March 1, 2001

6 - 9:30 p.m.
Jefferson County Airport Terminal Building, Mount Evans Room
11755 Airport Way, Broomfield

FACILITATOR: Reed Hodgin

Jerry DePoorter, the Board's chair, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Allen, Suzanne Allen, Jerry DePoorter, Joe Downey, Jeff Eggleston, Tom Gallegos, Shirley Garcia, Jim Kinsinger, Bill Kossack, Tom Marshall, LeRoy Moore, Nancy Peters, Bill Petersen, Earl Sorrels, Markuené Sumler / Steve Gunderson, Rob Henneke, Jeremy Karpatkin, Hank Dalton

BOARD / EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Byrnes, Mary Harlow, Victor Holm, Paul Jurasin, Mary Mattson, Bryan Taylor

PUBLIC / OBSERVERS PRESENT: Karen Lowrie (CRESP); Roman Kohler (RF Homesteaders); Anna Martinez (DOE); Norma Castaneda (DOE); John Corsi (Kaiser-Hill); Larry Hankins (Steelworkers); Lane Butler (Kaiser-Hill); John Marler (RFCLoG); Lee Norland (Kaiser-Hill); Don Owen (DNFSB); Ken Korkia (CAB staff); Deb Thompson (CAB staff); Noelle Stenger (CAB staff); Jerry Henderson (CAB staff)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Larry Hankins: I'm a Radiological Control Technician (RCT) at the site, a member of the Steelworkers union. The State of the Flats meeting held last week was a dog and pony show. Things are not as good at Rocky Flats as people let on. Beware of people who are wolves in sheep clothing, who say they represent me - because they don't. For my grandchildren's sake, clean Rocky Flats out and do it right. We leave a legacy behind us where people can look back and say that they did what was right, and they did well. I would like to have that left behind me. What I see right now is wrong.

REGULATOR UPDATE - DNFSB: Don Owen with the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board gave his quarterly update.

- DNFSB issued a "perspective" report at last month's **State of the Flats** meeting. Three Rocky Flats issues were covered in that report. In the area of plutonium stabilization, DNFSB is impressed with progress so far, but it will be a challenge for the site to meet some milestones. The site is expected to reach its December 2001 milestones for draining solutions. However, plutonium metal and oxide packing continues to be problematic because of delay starting up the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System. Regarding integrated safety management, the site is improving the integration of safety into its work planning. A number of problems surfaced in December, which resulted in DOE-RFFO asking Kaiser-Hill to take corrective actions. Engineered controls for D&D activities: since December Kaiser-Hill has accomplished a "hot" startup of the inner tent chamber, using plasma arc cutting, a system that leaves the worker in a hazard-reduced area. The workers now

will be able to wear less protective equipment, and there is a significant reduction in airborne hazards, and preliminary data is encouraging.

- DNFSB issued Technical Report TECH-28, which offers suggestions for **improving the safety controls** in facilities and specifically addresses facilities for which there is a short remaining lifespan. Site representatives have the report and are taking the recommendations under consideration.
- DNFSB's recommendation 2000-2 regarding **vital safety systems**: the site has implemented a safety plan, identified safety systems in Building 371 requiring review, and has concluded the initial assessment called for by the safety plan. On a related note, DNFSB is following very closely all actions associated with recent safety concerns at the site, and any corrective actions being taken.

D&D UPDATE AND DISCUSSION: Representatives from DOE and Kaiser-Hill were asked to brief the Board on D&D activities at the site.

First, Fred Gerdeman (DOE-RFFO) gave an overview of D&D issues. The project scope for D&D at Rocky Flats covers more than 700 facilities and structures of about 3.5 million square feet. A majority of the D&D budget (85%) goes toward D&D of the 1.5 million square feet that make up the contaminated facilities. The buildings are categorized into three types: Type 1 is free of contamination, but may have asbestos or PCBs; Type 2 have some contamination of a limited complexity; and Type 3 are buildings containing special nuclear materials, with either a significant amount of contamination or complexity involved. D&D oversight responsibility is split between the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Energy (DOE). There are numerous decision documents related to D&D such as: 1) the Decommissioning Program Plan (DPP), which outlines the regulatory steps for decommissioning buildings; 2) RFCA Standard Operating Protocols (RSOP), which cover routine decommissioning activities; 3) a Decommissioning Operations Plan (DOP), which is a decision document for highly contaminated Type 3 buildings; and 4) IM/IRAs and PAMs, used for activities outside the scope of an RSOP. Challenges in the D&D area include safety, removing special nuclear materials from the site, waste management, maintaining level funding, and size reduction of contaminated equipment.

Next, Jeff Stevens with Kaiser-Hill's D&D Program Office gave an update on the current status of D&D projects at Rocky Flats. The steps involved with decommissioning a building are as follows:

- Characterization, which involves a historical site assessment, reconnaissance characterization (both radiological and non-radiological), and facility typing.
- Planning, which includes the preparation of a Project Management Plan (PMP), Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement (RFCA) Decision Documents, work packages, design, and procurement.
- Dismantlement of gloveboxes, tanks, piping, and ducts, performed by Steelworkers or other workers in building trades.
- Facility decontamination of the floors, walls, ceilings, removal of the floors, and using either a hydrolasing, scabbling or scarifying process.
- Pre-demolition survey. This is a survey of 1) the radiological components via samples, scans, fixed measurements, and loose measurements; and 2) the non-radiological constituents such as asbestos, PCBs, metals, and organics.
- Demolition of the building itself.

- Environmental restoration, which involves planning, operations, and following regulatory guidelines.

Worker hazard elimination is a key part of the process. Some new technology helps to reduce exposure, such as using plasma arc size reduction methods; using new packaging standards reduces exposure while working with surface contaminated objects; measurement innovations decreases worker risk, such as the use of gas generation testing; and consolidation and streamlining of regulatory requirements decreases distractions to the workers. Some accomplishments in the area of risk reduction include draining 95% of actinide liquids; processing and repackaging of residues and completing stabilization of residue salts; eliminating Material Access Area security measures in Buildings 771 and Building 776/777; shipping 17,000 cubic meters of low-level waste offsite; shipping classified plutonium metal parts to Savannah River; and plutonium consolidation into Building 371. There are many challenges ahead for 2001, including reconfiguration of the Protected Area, startup of the Plutonium Stabilization and Packaging System, continued shipments of transuranic waste, and demolition of Building 111. Decommissioning activities planned for FY01 focus primarily on Buildings 771, 776, 707, and 371/374. Stakeholders will be asked to get involved in the decision documents and upcoming issues for this year.

Finally, Steve Gunderson with CDPHE briefly discussed his agency's perspective on D&D issues. One concern of the regulators is environmental restoration, and they are pleased to have more integration between D&D and environmental restoration. There have been some discussions about what other buildings in the Industrial Area may be classified as Type 3 in the future. Building 444 is an example of a building that may be classified as highly contaminated, as it is a complex large building with both beryllium and uranium contamination. However, this will have to be determined through characterization of each of the buildings. CDPHE has workers assigned to each of the major plutonium buildings, and those individuals have access to all the meetings and the work package documents. This interaction is an important part of the regulatory process. Some of the focus now has begun to shift to the buildings outside the Protected Area — the "south side" buildings — some of which were office buildings and not contaminated at all while others do have significant contamination. The agencies are working on how to establish regulatory oversight for those buildings. Steve does feel that CDPHE is adequately staffed to perform the regulatory requirement of oversight for D&D at Rocky Flats.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COMMITTEE UPDATE: The first part of this section of the agenda was a presentation on the Industrial Area Sampling and Analysis Plan (IASAP) for Rocky Flats. Lane Butler with Kaiser-Hill gave the presentation.

A comprehensive characterization of the Industrial Area is covered in this strategy. The characterization is performed to 1) support the site's remediation efforts, and 2) support the Comprehensive Risk Assessment, which measure residual risk at closure after all remedial actions have been performed. Right now, the site has collected some surface data for Individual Hazardous Substance Sites (IHSS), subsurface data for the Solar Ponds area, and limited data in several other areas such as storm drains and sanitary sewer lines. A total of 161 potential contaminant release sites have been identified, as well as additional special contamination sites such as the process waste lines and storm drains. A new sampling approach will be used as part of this plan, and the site is hoping for benefits associated with streamlining the characterization process. In the new approach, the IHSS areas will be grouped together, and there will be one Sampling and Analysis Plan for the Industrial Area

and another for the Buffer Zone, with annual addenda. Different sampling instrumentation will be used for the many types of contamination being characterized, including radionuclides, metals, volatile organic compounds, and pesticides. The approach to remediation is also new: the site will issue RFCA Standard Operating Protocols (RSOP) documents for all soil remediation and groundwater decisions. Remediation will now be integrated with D&D efforts. One subcontractor will perform characterization, two subcontractors will perform the remediation, and Kaiser-Hill will monitor to ensure there is independence maintained between the subcontractors. The draft IASAP is now under regulatory review.

Next, Jerry Henderson (RFCAB staff member) gave an update on the status of review and research being done by the Environmental Restoration Committee. The committee reviewed the findings of RSAL Task Report No. 1, Regulatory Analysis Report, and felt it was not necessary to prepare a recommendation from the Board at this time. In that report, the regulatory agencies have committed to using a wildlife refuge worker scenario for RSALs. Two peer reviewers have offered comments on Task Report 1, and those comments have been submitted to the Board for review. The committee will continue to monitor developments related to upcoming RSAL reports from the agencies. Jerry reviewed for the Board some of the details about the selection of the wildlife refuge worker scenario. Board members discussed their views on the use of the wildlife refuge worker scenario, and asked the committee to research other scenarios and return to the Board with its comments. The committee also plans to develop a recommendation for the Board's approval on the use of ALARA in RSAL calculations.

UPDATE ON THE FEBRUARY EMSSAB CHAIRS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING:

Jerry DePoorter gave a brief update on the chairs meeting held in February in Las Vegas. The Nevada Test Site Community Advisory Board hosted this meeting. The chairs of the SSABs across the country meet twice a year, and Jerry noted that he felt this was the most productive chairs meeting he has attended. First the group went on a tour of the Nevada Test Site, which included a visit to the Yucca Mountain Project. Jerry brought back quite a bit of information about the site and site characterization issues at Yucca Mountain, which is available at the RFCAB office. Back at the chairs meeting, the boards discussed a number of issues including membership recruitment, the process of making recommendations, interaction with the public, and evaluating the effectiveness of boards. RFCAB is run quite differently from the other boards, as the other SSABs primarily have staff provided through their respective site contractor. Finally, at the meeting the 10 recommendations drafted at the EMSSAB Stewardship Workshop held in Denver were approved by the boards present, with the exception of Hanford. The Hanford Advisory Board is expected to review the draft recommendations at its April meeting. If approved by Hanford, the recommendations will then be submitted to DOE-Headquarters.

NEXT MEETING:

Date:	April 5, 2001, 6 - 9:30 p.m.
Location:	Broomfield City Hall, One DesCombes Drive, Broomfield
Agenda:	Quarterly update by CDPHE; long-term stewardship update and discussion; presentation on institutional controls; Environmental Restoration Committee update

ACTION ITEM:	ASSIGNED TO:
None	

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M. *

(* Taped transcript of full meeting is available in the RFCAB office.)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Jeffrey Eggleston, Secretary
Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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